

1. (Twice Amended) A contact assembly for use in an electrical switching apparatus having an actuator, comprising:

BR a housing enclosing an electrical contact and pusher selectively actuatable by the actuator to operate the contact;

means for operatively joining the housing to the electrical switching apparatus using linear motion of the housing from in front of the electrical switching apparatus comprising a tenon on the housing received in a mortise on the electrical switching apparatus; and

means actuated by the linear motion of the housing from in front of the electrical switching apparatus for resiliently locking the housing to the electrical switching apparatus.


BR 6. (Amended) An electrical switching system comprising:
a main housing enclosing an actuatable apparatus including an actuator extending outwardly of the main housing;

a contact housing enclosing an electrical contact and a pusher selectively actuatable by the actuator to operate the contact;

a mortise on one of the main housing and contact housing and a tenon on the other of the main housing and contact housing for joining the contact housing to the main housing using linear motion of the contact housing from in front of the main housing; and

a snap lock actuated by the linear motion of the contact housing from in front of the main housing for resiliently locking the contact housing to the main housing.

13. (Amended) An electrical switching system comprising:


 a main housing enclosing an actuable apparatus including an actuator having opposite ends extending outwardly of opposite sides of the main housing;

a contact housing enclosing an electrical contact and a pusher selectively actuable by the actuator to operate the contact;

a mortise on each side of the main housing and a tenon on each side of the contact housing for joining the contact housing to either side of the main housing with the pusher proximate one of the ends of the actuator using linear motion of the contact housing from in front of the main housing; and

a snap lock actuated by the linear motion of the contact housing from in front of the main housing for resiliently locking the contact housing to the main housing.

20. (Amended) The method of mounting a contact block to an electrical switching apparatus, comprising:

 providing a main housing enclosing an actuable apparatus including an actuator having opposite ends extending outwardly of opposite sides of the main housing and a mortise on each side of the main housing aligned with a rib;

providing a contact housing enclosing an electrical contact and a pusher selectively actuable by the actuator to operate the contact and having a tenon and a snap lock element;